MLA STYLE

In-text citations

Basic format:

More often than not, it will be: (Author’s LastName Page#). For example, (Smith 27) or (Williams 156-57).

Punctuation:

The period comes AFTER the parenthetical citation (the only exception is with block quotes, where the period comes before the citation). You cannot include a page number if one is not listed. Also, URLs should not be used in a parenthetical citation, nor should they be used in the Works Cited page.

Anonymous articles:

If there is no last name for the article, use the first few words of the title. For example, an anonymous article titled “Colleges Recruit More International Students” might have the following in-text citation: (“Colleges recruit…” 37). The title can be abbreviated, and it should be enclosed in quotations marks.

Quoting something the source quoted:

If you want to quote something that was quoted in your original source (in other words, if you wanted to quote something that Williams said that you found in the original article by Smith), you would format the parenthetical citation like: (Williams qtd. In Smith 24). In this case, you would not put the Williams article in your works cited list—that would imply that you have actually gone ahead and read the whole Williams article, which is certainly something you should do if you have time).

Use of author’s last name:

If you use the author’s last name in the actual sentence, you do not need to include it in a parenthetical citation. For instance:

        Williams states, “The number of international students in American universities has increased dramatically over the last decade” (148).

If you are using multiple articles or works by the same author, distinguish between them in your in-text citations using their titles (just the first couple of words will do for longer titles):

        (Williams, “The Connection Between…” 124) or (Williams, Foundations 56)
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Common Entries for a Works Cited page

General Format:
Author’s LastName, Author’s FirstName. Title of Source. Title of Container, Other Contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Date of publication, Location.
(The entries are double-spaced, use of a hanging indent for each line after the first, and are organized alphabetically. If information is not available, skip it in the citation. However, use n.p. if no publisher name is available and n.d. if no publishing date is given—this would be especially applicable for a website.)

Title of Source:
The title of the source should follow the author’s name. Depending upon the type of source, it should be listed in italics or quotation marks. A book or a website should be in italics, but a periodical (journal, magazine, newspaper) article or a song should be in quotation marks.


Title of container:
Containers are the larger wholes in which the source is located. For example, if you want to cite a poem that is listed in a collection of poems, the individual poem is the source, while the larger collection is the container. The title of the container is usually italicized and followed by a comma, since the information that follows next describes the container.


The container may also be a television series, which is made up of episodes.


Editions or Versions:
If a source is listed as an edition or version of a work, include it in your citation.


ANY OTHER QUESTIONS??? Go to https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/ for more information.